

Message Text

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ACTION STR-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 STRE-00 FEA-01 AGR-05

CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FRB-03 H-02

INR-07 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05

CIEP-01 SS-15 ITC-01 TRSE-00 PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01

AF-08 ARA-06 EA-07 NEA-10 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 /131 W

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O R 091909Z JUL 76

FM USDEL MTN GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASDC IMMEDIATE 1077

INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L USDEL GENEVA 5460

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRD MTN

SUBJECT: EC AND AGRICULTURAL TARIFFS

ACTION STR

1. DURING TARIFF GROUP MEETING JULY 7, DEPUTY HEAD OF EC DEL (ABBOTT) MADE FOLLOWING COMMENTS IN PRIVATE CONVERSATION WITH CULBERT SHORTLY AFTER US RESPONSE TO EC FORMAL INTRODUCTION OF ITS TARIFF FORMULA. WE HAVE NO REASON TO THINK THESE VIEWS REFLECT ANYTHING MORE THAN ABBOTT'S PERSONAL VIEWS AND WE ACCORDINGLY REQUEST PROTECTION OF HIM AS SOURCE. CONTEST IN WHICH REMARKS TOOK PLACE WAS ABBOTT'S EVIDENT FRUSTRATION AND CONCERN ABOUT CONTINUED US EC IMPASSE ON AGRICULTURE AND RISKS THIS POSED FOR AGREEMENT ON TARIFF-CUTTING FORMULA.

2. ABBOTT SAID SEPARATION OF INDUSTRY AND AGRICULTURE
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IN EC COMMISSION OPERATIONS IS SO COMPLETE THAT EC

TARIFF FORMULA INTRODUCED INTO MTN JULY 7 HAD NOT BEEN COORDINATED WITH OR EVEN DISCUSSED WITH DG VI (AGRICULTURAL DIRECTORATE). HE DREW OUR ATTENTION TO FACT NO ONE FROM DG VI WAS IN ATTENDANCE AT TARIFF MEETING. ABBOTT REGRETTED THAT THE PRACTICE OF NON-COMMUNICATION BETWEEN DG I AND VI HAS CONTINUED AFTER GALLAGHER TOOK OVER DG I. ABBOTT SAID HE DID NOT THINK US COULD EXPECT ANYTHING MORE FORTH-COMING FROM EC IN TARIFF GROUP ABOUT AGRICULTURAL TARIFFS THAN LUYTEN'S COMMENT THAT AG TARIFFS CAN BE DISCUSSED IN GROUP AGRICULTURE. ABBOTT WENT ON TO SAY HE HAD NO IDEA WHAT EC (DG VI) WOULD SAY IN GROUP AGRICULTURE ABOUT REDUCING AG TARIFFS EVEN IF US TOOK EC UP ON IT AND, WITH NON-COMMUNICATION BETWEEN TWO DIRECTORATES, HE HAD NO WAY TO FIND OUT. ABBOTT SUGGESTED ONLY WAY TO FIND OUT IS FOR US TO ASK EC EITHER BILATERALLY OR FORMALLY IN GROUP AGRICULTURE. HE SUGGESTED TWO POSSIBLE WAYS FO STARTING A DIALOG: ONE COULD BE US NOTIFICATION OF EC AG TARIFF BARRIERS UNDER THE AGREE#

"OTHER PRODUCTS" PROCEDURE IN GROUP AGRICULTURE; THE OTHER COULD BE A "REQUEST/OFFER" PROCEDURE ON AG PRODUCTS IN GROUP AGRICULTURE. RE LATTER, ABBOTT CONSIDERED IT IMPROBABLE THAT EC COULD BE INDUCED TO APPLY TO AG PRODUCTS ANY PARTICULAR TARIFF-CUTTING FORMULA ADOPTED IN TARIFF GROUP BUT HE DID NOT COSIDER IT OUT OF THE REALM OF POSSIBILITY THAT THE EC WOULD BE WILLING TO MAKE CUTS IN AG TARIFFS (WITH EXCEPTIONS, OF COURSE) COMPARABLE IN DEPTH OF CUT TO THE RESULTS THAT WOULD BE ACHIEVED ON INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTS VIA THE EC'S OWN FORMULA FOR INDUSTRY. LACEY (UK) VOLUNTEERED SOME EXPECTATION IN SEPARATE CONVERSATION WITH ME TODAY.

3. CULBERT LIMITED HIS COMMENTS TO OBSERVATION THAT THESE SUGGESTIONS, WHILE INTERESTING, SEEMED TO REQUIRE US TO "GIVE UP" AND ACCEPT EC POSITION THAT AG BARRIERS CAN ONLY BE DISCUSSED IN GROUP AGRICULTURE WHICH, AS ABBOTT KNEW, WOULD BE CONTRARY TO LEGISLATIVE MANDATE UNDER WHICH US OPERATING. PURSUING POINT ABBOTT HAD MADE ABOUT CONFIDENTIAL

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POSSIBLE BILATERAL US-EC CONTACT ON AG TARIFFS, CULBERT ASKED IF ABBOTT THOUGHT EC(DG VI) WOULD STALL OR BRUSH ASIDE ANY US EXPRESSION OF INTEREST UNTIL AFTER US ELECTIONS AND /OR UNTIL NEW EC COMMISSIONERS TAKE OFFICE NEXT JANUARY. ABBOTT SAID NO, HE DIDN'T THINK A US OVERTURE WOULD BE REBUFFED.WALKER

NOTE BY OC/T: # AS RECEIVED.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CUSTOMS DUTIES, POLICIES, AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES, TARIFFS, RELATIONS WITH REGIONAL ORG
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 JUL 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976MTNGE05460
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760267-0818
From: MTN GENEVA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760774/aaaacncn.tel
Line Count: 114
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION STR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 31 MAR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <31 MAR 2004 by greeneet>; APPROVED <13 AUG 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EC AND AGRICULTURAL TARIFFS ACTION STR
TAGS: ETRD, MTN, EEC
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006